

**Natural Resources Conservation  
Service**

**Application Ranking Summary  
County F and W**

<b>Program:</b> EQIP 2014	<b>Ranking Date:</b>	<b>Application Number:</b>
<b>Ranking Tool:</b> County		<b>Applicant:</b>
<b>Final Ranking Score:</b>		<b>Address:</b>
<b>Planner:</b>		<b>Telephone:</b>
<b>Farm Location:</b>		

**National Priorities Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering “Yes” to the following question. Answering “Yes” to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is “Yes”, do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is “No”, proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	250 Point(s)
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	15 Point(s)
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	10 Point(s)
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated “impaired water body” (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	10 Point(s)
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a “non-impaired water body”?	10 Point(s)

2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	10 Point(s)
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	15 Point(s)
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	10 Point(s)
3. c. Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	10 Point(s)
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	10 Point(s)
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	10 Point(s)
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	10 Point(s)
4. c. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	10 Point(s)
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	10 Point(s)
Soil Health:– Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	10 Point(s)
5. b. Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	10 Point(s)
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
6. a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.	10 Point(s)

6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	10 Point(s)
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	10 Point(s)
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	10 Point(s)
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	10 Point(s)
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	10 Point(s)
Energy Conservation– Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	10 Point(s)
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	10 Point(s)
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the “EQIP Plan of Operations” result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	10 Point(s)

**State Issues Addressed**

<b>Issue Questions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
1. Answer YES if applicant has NEVER had an EQIP contract? (25 points)	25 Point(s)
2. FW1 - Are Timber Stand Improvement practices planned on half of the offered woodland acres that need treatment? The following practices are required to receive points for this question: Hardwood crop tree release, Understory release in mid-rotation forest stands (pine or hardwoods), and Precommercial thinning in dense, stagnant young pine stands. If the answer to this question is yes, answer to questions FW3, FW4, FW6, AND FW8 must be no. (16 points)	16 Point(s)
3. FW3 - Are longleaf pine, shortleaf, or a hardwood seedling planting or silvopasture establishment planned on half of the offered acres that need treatment? If the answer to this question is yes, answer to questions FW1, FW4, FW6, AND FW8 must be no. (20 points)	20 Point(s)
4. FW4 - Is early successional habitat management planned to be implemented or riparian forest buffer (of any size) planned to be implemented that directly benefit streams with known T & E species (please consult T&E species maps)? If the answer to this question is yes, answer to questions FW1, FW3, FW6, AND FW8 must be no (14points)	14 Point(s)
5. FW5 - Is prescribed fire and associated firebreaks is needed planned on property on a 2 or 3 year rotation on half of the offered woodland acres that need treatment? (7points)	7 Point(s)
6. FW6 - Is prescribed fire and associated firebreaks if needed planned on property on a 2 or 3 year rotation on half of the offered woodland acres that need treatment and has a thinning operation taken place on the offered acres within the last 3 years? If the answer to this question is yes, answer to questions FW1, FW3, FW4, and FW8 must be no (13 points)	13 Point(s)

7. FW7 - Is applicant applying for tree planting, where he/she had lost their newly planted trees during recent exceptional droughts and/or other natural disasters? (20 points)	20 Point(s)
8. FW8 - Is chemical release needed and planned on at least half of the offered acres? If the answer to this question is yes, answer to questions FW1, FW3, FW4, FW6, and FW8 must be no (10 points)	10 Point(s)
9. Applicant commits to control cogongrass that is present on the offered land. (7 points) If the answer to this questions is yes, then the answer to the other invasive species plant questions is no.? 20 pts.	20 Point(s)
10. Applicant commits to control Japanese Climbing fern or Multi-flora Rose that are on the offered land? (4 points) If the answer to this questions is yes, then the answer to the other invasive species plant questions is no.	13 Point(s)
11. Applicant commits to control Kudzu, McCartney Rose, Cherokee Rose or Chinese Tallow Tree that are present on the offered land? (If the answer to this questions is yes, then the answer to the other invasive species plant questions is no.14 pts.	14 Point(s)
12. Is the infestation by all eligible species 10% or less of management tract, field or area? If answer to 12 is Yes, the answer to 13 will be NO. 15 pts.	15 Point(s)
13. Is the infestation by all eligible species greater than 10% but less than 50% of management tract, field or area? If the answer to 13 is YES, the answer to 12 will be NO. 13 pts	13 Point(s)
18. Are multiple land uses infested by eligible invasive species? 6 pts.	6 Point(s)
19. In areas where eligible invasive species will be controlled, is applicant willing to establish native grasses on the treated area to protect it from erosion? 3 pts.	4 Point(s)
20. Is the predominance of treated acres in land capability classes Ie or IIe? If answer to this question is Yes, then answers to 21 and 22 will be NO. 4 pts.	4 Point(s)
21. Is the predominance of treated acres in land capability classes IIIe or IVe? If answer to this question is YES then answers to 20 and 22 will be NO. 2 pts.	2 Point(s)

22. Is the predominance of treated acres in land capability classes greater than IVE? If the answer to this question is YES, then answers to 20 and 21 will be NO. 1 pt.	1 Point(s)
23. Is the land being treated for invasive species control adjacent to Federal, State, or County land where cogongrass is being treated. 25 pts.	25 Point(s)
24. Are the offered acres adjacent to a riparian buffer and qualify for the *Riparian Forest Areas Expanded Buffer Initiative? The Riparian Area would have to be expanded from 35 ft. to 70ft to qualify (*See FY 17 EQIP Handbook for specific details)	30 Point(s)
25. Will the offered acres address water quality impairments? Must be in a 12 digit watershed with a stream segment on the ADEM 303d list due to pollution from agricultural source (GIS layer "AL2016 303d_line") or a TMDL stream with an agricultural related pollutant (GIS layer "2016_AL_approved_TMDLs_lines")?(10 points)	10 Point(s)
26. Will the offered acres benefit T&E aquatic species within a Strategic Habitat Unit (GIS polygon layer "SHUs" or within 1 mile upstream of Critical Habitat (GIS layer "crithab_line")? (10 points)	10 points

#### Local Issues Addressed

Issue Questions	Responses
TBD	25 Point(s)
TBD	50 Point(s)
TBD	75 Point(s)
TBD	50 Point(s)
TBD	25 Point(s)
TBD	75 Point(s)

--	--

**Land Use:**

**Crop;**

**Forest;**

**Other;**

**Pasture;**

<b>Resource Concerns</b>	<b>Practices</b>
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Brush Management
Degraded Plant Condition: Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	Herbaceous Weed Control
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Critical Area Planting
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Forest Stand Improvement
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Forest Trails and Landings
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Fuel Break
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Mulching
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Riparian Forest Buffer
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Silvopasture Establishment
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Tree/Shrub Establishment
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Tree/Shrub Pruning
Degraded Plant Condition: Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Firebreak
Degraded Plant Condition: Wildfire Hazard, Excessive Biomass Accumulation	Prescribed Burning
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Access Control
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Early Successional Habitat Development/M
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Forest Stand Improvement
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Forest Trails and Landings
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Hedgerow Planting

Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Restoration and Management of Rare and D
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Stream Crossing
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Structures for Wildlife
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Tree/Shrub Pruning
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
Fish and Wildlife - Inadequate Habitat: Inadequate Habitat - Cover/Shelter	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

### **Ranking Score**

Efficiency:

Local Issues:

State Issues:

National Issues:

**Final Ranking Score:**

This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.

Notes:

<b>NRCS Representative:</b>	<b>Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:</b>
<b>Signature Date:</b>	<b>Signature Date:</b>